

Health Dept.,
Town Hall,
Spennymoor.
May 18th. 1944.

Medical Officer's Annual Report for the Year Ending
31st March 1943.

Urban District Council of Spennymoor.

In accordance with the Ministry of Health recommendations that only matters of special interest to the District, should be included in the Report. I therefore confine myself to the following brief statement of conditions affecting the District:-
Housing.

Owing to the shortage of labour and material for property repairs, a marked deterioration in the structural condition of dwellings has been found. This is most noticeable in property which was scheduled for demolition before the war and not vacated. The shortage of housing accommodation is increasing with a corresponding increase in overcrowding.

Scabies.

As expected the Public's Housing difficulties, has resulted in an increase in our scabies. In order to assist in the eradication, the Council opened a treatment Centre during the year. The response to this service has been most disappointing, in 16 sessions only 46 first treatments and 65 second or subsequent treatments. The cost per treatment of these cases has therefore been high.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year efforts have been made to secure a 100% immunisation in the child population of this District, personal

contd.,

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and only matters of special interest to the District Council
are included in the Report. I therefore confine myself to the
following brief statement of conditions affecting the District
Council.
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years, a marked deterioration in the structural condition
of dwellings has been found. This is most noticeable in
property which was scheduled for demolition before the war
and not vacated. The shortage of housing accommodation is
increasing with a corresponding increase in overcrowding.

Sanitation.

An increase in the number of houses built since 1914 has
in an increase in our population. In order to cope with this
extension, the Council opened a treatment Centre during the
year. The response to this service has been most disappointing.
In 1943 only 46 first treatments and 65 second or
subsequent treatments. The cost per treatment of these cases
has therefore been high.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year efforts have been made to secure a 100%
immunisation in the child population of this District. Personal
contact.

contd.,

visits have been made to the homes, and the schools canvassed. The results however have not been up to expectations, only 142 children under 5 and 1299 over 5 were immunised out of a possible total of 500 under 5 and 2520 over 5. Efforts will be made next year to get a 100% immunisation.

Water Supply.

The supply of water to all parts of the District has continued to be good. A temporary shortage from one particular area, was quickly remedied, by the Durham County Water Board.

Tuberculosis.

During the year a very slight increase in Tuberculosis notifications has been found. This is no doubt due, to increase in Medical examinations and supervision, owing to the calling up of our manpower to war service.

The staff of the Health Dept., now consists of one part-time Medical Officer of Health and one full-time Sanitary Inspector. Our war time efforts to maintain a high standard in Health and Sanitation are therefore restricted by the smallness of our staff and the additional war time calls upon our time.

S.V.Tinsley.
Medical Officer of Health.

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